DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 140 829 IR 004 932

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TITLE Report of the Advisory Group on Libraries to the Librarian of Congress.
PUB DATE 11 Feb 77
NOTE 20p.; For related document, see ED 135 389

EDRS PRICE MF-$0.83 HC-$1.67 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS *Advisory Committees; Library Administration; Library Networks; *Library Planning; *Library Role; Library Services; National Libraries; *Program Improvement
IDENTIFIERS *Library of Congress

ABSTRACT

This selective review of the Library of Congress (LC) prepared by the Advisory Group on Libraries in 1976 makes recommendations from the perspective of the library community. It emphasizes the general educational and cultural role of the LC, stressing the importance of making the public aware of LC services to expose the concept of the LC as central in a national network of libraries. The report also covers the areas of bibliographic services, reader services, international role, and the LC and North American library community. It notes that the LC must press for realization of a coherent national bibliographic system, that specialized data bases could be used as foundation for a generalized national information and retrieval service, that the LC must promote greater international cooperation, and that advisory mechanisms from the library community are needed to improve the continuity and utility of the LC. (KP)

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Report of

the Advisory Group on Libraries

to the

Librarian of Congress

IR004932

INTRODUCTION

A periodic assessment of the activities of public institutions frequently results in a renewed commitment to basic institutional purposes, and can bring about revised objectives and new courses of action; it tends also to release hidden reservoirs of staff energy while reassuring the observing public. Therefore, it seemed appropriate and timely when the twelfth Librarian of Congress, Daniel J. Boorstin, in one of his first official actions, directed that a comprehensive review of the Library of Congress take place during 1976. It had been more than thirty-five years since the last review of the Library's activities was initiated by Archibald MacLeish.

In May of 1976 the Librarian appointed an Advisory Group on Libraries representative of the diversity of the North American library community, joined by the Director of the British Library, to assist in the Library's review process and make such recommendations as the group might deem appropriate. In his original memorandum of February 1976, the Librarian suggested several questions which might be addressed in the review of the Library of Congress.*

During the six months allotted to its task, the twelve-member Advisory Group on Libraries toured the Library of Congress, interviewed members of the Library staff including the Librarian, consulted colleagues, and reviewed the printed record. The report which follows is not intended as a detailed examination of the enormous range of activities in which the Library is engaged. Rather, it is a selective review intended to suggest to the Librarian of Congress an agenda of paramount concern from the perspective of the library community.

Service is all too often an assumed objective in the rationale for technological and administrative innovations. The concept of the Library of Congress as the central element in a national network of libraries is not likely to excite the general public unless the public is aware of what the Library of Congress can and will do. The Library's support for the work of the research economist in San Francisco as well as the eighth grade ecologist in North Carolina; its concern for the preservation of rare manuscripts as with the elimination of illiteracy; the Library's interest in folklore and music and in world technology should in appropriate ways be made palpably evident through local public, academic, school and special libraries in this country. For these and other reasons this report emphasizes the general educational and cultural role of the Library of Congress.

If it can be said that there is an element of genius in American librarianship it must be attributed primarily to the unparalleled development of bibliographic access to the many fine U.S. collections, thus overcoming the barriers of vast geographical distances and the inequitable distribution of resources. As the complexity of the task grows and

*This memorandum is attached as Appendix I.

costs increase, the creation of more sophisticated cooperative bibliographic arrangements becomes essential. The Library of Congress must continue to exercise its leadership in this area by pressing for the realization of a coherent national bibliographic system in a cooperative framework.

In its role as the research and information agency of the U.S. Congress, the Library of Congress has generated a number of specialized data bases which could form the basis for a generalized national information and retrieval service, provided that local libraries could gain access to them within a reasonable length of time and at a reasonable cost.

Internationally the Library of Congress must work to promote greater cooperation through the established mechanisms created by UNESCO, the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA), the International Federation for Documentation (FID), the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), and other organizations concerned with library and information services.

Finally, libraries, like schools and hospitals, are too valuable to be influenced solely by professionals. Yet, the organized and informed opinions of the library community will provide the most enduring support and guidance that the Library of Congress is likely to receive. While the record establishes that the Library of Congress has had consultations with the library community on basic questions affecting policy, function and organization, specific advisory mechanisms must be established to improve continuity and utility.

In presenting this report to the Librarian of Congress the Advisory Group on Libraries wishes to express its appreciation for the opportunity to participate in this historic process. We also pledge our commitment to the many efforts to achieve a library and information service system worthy of the highest aspirations of the American people.

The Advisory Group on Libraries gratefully acknowledges the support given to its work by John Y. Cole and the Library of Congress Task Force staff, and notes with special appreciation the assistance provided by Patricia K. Harris, Assistant to the Executive Director, American Library Association.

Respectfully submitted,

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February 11, 1977

CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL ROLE OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The Library of Congress with the Smithsonian Institution, the National Archives, and the National Galleries shares an enormous responsibility for maintaining the record of culture past and present. As it acquires and preserves its collections in support of education and research it also reflects the complex and multi-faceted heritage which defines our national identity. Yet the Library has another, perhaps unique, role to play. As the acknowledged leader of a network of similar institutions stretched across the nation, the Library of Congress is expected to provide extraordinary support for the program activities of other libraries. Although emphasis has traditionally been given to technical assistance, there exists an unlimited opportunity for the Library of Congress to enhance the image of all American libraries as cultural institutions by broadening its own cultural programs and by sharing its cultural programming capabilities with the rest of the nation's libraries.

The Library of Congress carries out a number of programs through which it is able to preserve and share materials unique to our heritage and to make a valuable contribution to America's cultural life. In 1975 the Library's travelling exhibits visited thirty-one separate locations in the United States. The concert series supported by special funds offers on a regular basis musical programs of distinction to library staff members and residents of the greater Washington, D.C. area. The symposia which are sponsored by the Library promote discussion, criticism and the study of issues related to American life and letters. The Library's wide-ranging program of acquisitions supports this cultural role in that the Library is able to collect and preserve documents, records of original performances, and other materials which are special to the American past.

In developing its collections the Library must continue aggressively to seek and acquire those records which define the interests and achievements of the American people. Through its program of publications, exhibitions, and live and recorded concerts, the Library can share this record of the American heritage and offer a perspective on both the American tradition and other cultures. The Library of Congress must provide a setting which will encourage exploration into the Library's vast collections, and it must also work to sponsor and encourage research in those areas of its collection which are unique.

As the country moves toward a coherent national system of library and information services, the Library of Congress cannot supersede the research, public and school libraries in this country, but should provide the leadership to enhance and supplement the capabilities of the many libraries which serve the American people.

Some specific programs for consideration are:

the expansion of the Library's travelling exhibits program to include a wide variety of topics and to reach a wider audience by means of a coordinated display schedule established by the Library in cooperation with local libraries across the country;

a program to offer the expertise of the Library of Congress to communities to assist them in creating local cultural programs. Other groups, such as the American Library Association and its chapters, the Special Libraries Association, the Association of Research Libraries and the National Endowment for the Humanities could be called on to join in the development and funding of such a program.

the sponsorship of cultural and educational programs that could be presented at locations outside of Washington, D.C., utilizing the resources of the scholars and artists in residence at the Library of Congress;

the support and development of high quality cultural programming; including but not limited to concerts, lectures and readings, for television broadcasting;

expansion of the number of titles in the Library's publishing program, perhaps to include the issue of a journal of both high quality and popular interest reflecting a wide range of ideas and strengthening the perception of libraries as cultural institutions.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC SERVICES OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

There is no more fundamental problem facing the American library community than the effective organization of basic bibliographic services which provide access to our nation's wealth of research materials. The exponential growth in the quantity of materials produced and the increased cost of all materials have made it imperative that a method be found to reduce the unit cost of adding to and maintaining a library collection and to assure the identification and location of a growing body of materials for all users. The coordination of compatible or interrelated computer based bibliographic systems appears to be the most promising current solution to this problem. However, such a system demands a high level of cooperation--it is not a task that can be assumed by any one institution, but must be undertaken cooperatively to facilitate the sharing of resources and to assure that equipment, standards and scope are consistent.

The Library of Congress has pioneered in providing many essential services and tools to facilitate bibliographic control. The record shows that since 1902, when the Library of Congress first distributed standard cataloging data for titles received, it has offered the American library community an increasingly diverse variety of bibliographic services. The printed catalog card which is still made available through the Catalog Distribution Service has been augmented by a variety of related services, including MARC tapes, Library of Congress proof sheets, technical publications, and book catalogs.

With the successful trial of the COMARC (Cooperative Machine Readable Cataloging) there is the possibility that libraries will be able to contribute their own machine-readable bibliographic data to the MARC distribution service. Internationally, MARC has already been accepted as a standard for bibliographic exchange.

The Cataloging in Publication Program (CIP) provides libraries with cataloging data when the material is received; prospective publications are cataloged at the Library of Congress from galley proofs and the resulting cataloging information is printed on the verso of the title page. For the publication of the nearly one thousand publishing houses participating, CIP insures rapid and ready access to bibliographic information associated with their products. Further expansion, especially extension to foreign imprints of the CIP is a welcome prospect.

The National Union Catalog provides both a full bibliographic description and information on location of the materials listed, thereby linking the collections of over 1100 libraries.

The extent of the Library's holdings and its bibliographic records has been greatly increased by the National Program for Acquisitions and Cataloging (NPAC), by which "all library materials of value to scholarship currently published throughout the world are secured and cataloged."

The main thrust of NPAC is foreign acquisitions; since the program began in 1966, more than 1.1 million reports have been searched and orders have been placed for 229 thousand titles not previously acquired. Fifty-six libraries now receive depository sets of the resulting cataloging cards.

The Library's participation in the CONSER (Conversion of Serials) project to build a national data base of serial publications and its direction of the National Serials Data Program (NSDP) are undertakings of great significance.

The Library's efforts at bibliographic description are not limited to the print media, however. With the collaboration of the National Information Center for Educational Media (NICEM) at the University of Southern California, the Library of Congress is able to catalog annually, using NICEM proof sheets, some 7000 titles of new non-print materials. These materials include motion pictures, filmstrips, slide sets, transparency sets, and video recordings. This effort is a good beginning but it should be noted that there are a number of non-print materials that are not represented in the Library of Congress' system.

To provide a complete picture of the Library's bibliographic services, the bibliographic functions of the Copyright Office must also be mentioned. The Copyright Office is the first source of transfer of materials to the Library. In the process of assigning a copyright registration number, the Copyright Office catalogs the materials for its own purposes and publishes a listing of copyrights in the Catalog of Copyright Entries. In 1975 the work of the Copyright Office Cataloging Division was expedited by the establishment of the first major on-line cataloging system in the Library. COPICS (Copyright Office Publication and Interactive Cataloging System) is aimed at the automation of all activities of the Cataloging Division: COPICS is able to supply regularly pre-sorted cards, a book form and a microform catalog, and a comprehensive machine-readable data base.

In addition to these specific services the Library has contributed its leadership and energy in cooperation with British, Canadian and American library groups, to the preparation of a second edition of the Anglo-American Cataloging Rules.

Clearly the Library of Congress offers a number of highly valuable bibliographic services. However, there has been little evidence that the staff has taken a conceptual approach to the question of how to achieve a total national bibliographic system. On the contrary, the structure and internal organizational patterns of the Library often appear to have reinforced a fragmented and incomplete program of national bibliographic control. Nevertheless, the Library has, despite its organizational complexities, gradually introduced most of the basic components of a "United States national bibliography" (as understood within the context of the IFLA Universal Bibliographic Control program). It appears that with relatively little adjustment in terms of coverage, but with perhaps major reorganizational efforts within the Library, it would be possible to create an integrated U.S. national bibliographic system.

Since bibliographic control and access are two essential elements of library service in this country, the Advisory Group recommends that the Library of Congress give immediate attention to the following recommendations:

That the Library of Congress take the lead in developing a cooperative United States national bibliographic system encompassing initially a record of all works currently published in the United States, and that it grow to include bibliographic information for materials in all formats issued in the United States. That a group of cooperating libraries, including the Library of Congress, constitute the source for the bibliographic information comprising this system.

That the Library of Congress in mobilizing the efforts of other libraries in a cooperative national bibliographic system should recognize that the National Union Catalog and Catalog of Copyright Entries may need to be reconsidered. Consideration may be given to a cooperative dual structured system which would include an on-line computer-based bibliographic system with printed or micrographic products designed to meet the assessed needs of the national and international library community.

That the Library of Congress develop the capacity to offer both descriptive cataloging and subject analysis as well as to include both book and nonbook materials within the proposed U.S. national bibliographic system data base.

READER SERVICES

The reader services of the Library of Congress are seen to be varied and unique as the Library attempts to open its collection, interpret it, and make it accessible to all its users.

Basic reader services at the Library of Congress are handled by the Reference Department and the Law Library. In 1975 these two units accounted for the circulation of more than 2 million items within the Library and of over 200,000 off the premises. In addition, these units handled almost a million reference queries presented in person, by correspondence or by telephone. In this role the Library has offered unparalleled assistance to other libraries in their support of education and scholarship.

Certainly the Library of Congress is unique among American libraries in terms of the extraordinary range and depth of the reference and research services it offers to its principal clientele--the U.S. Congress. Primarily through the Congressional Research Service (CRS) it will undertake almost any research activity, conduct a wide variety of literature searches, analyze contemporary issues and provide access to a multitude of materials held in the Library's vast collections in support of the work of a member of Congress, the President, or other government officials.

In organizing itself to pursue these and other activities the Library has developed, in addition to the more traditional bibliographical aids, a number of specialized data bases which are accessible via computer terminals.

In 1975 the CRS answered over 244,000 inquiries from members of Congress; 709 major projects were undertaken and some 30,000 requests were answered by substantive reports, brief written responses, or consultation. This service has been enhanced by the development and implementation of the Legislative Information Display System (LIDS) which offers access to three legislative data files via computer terminals. This data base includes the bibliographical citation file of 75,000 references to CRS reports, official documents, and periodical literature, plus the major issues file of briefs on selected key issues.

To its general users, the Library offers an automated data base related primarily to the fields of science and technology. Named SCORPIO (Subject Content Oriented Retriever for Processing Information On-Line), this system also includes access to three data bases developed by the Congressional Research Service: the Bill Digest File, its bibliographical citation file, and issue briefs. The system provides access by author, title, subject, LC classification number, or LC card number, to approximately 90,000 English language monographs selected from the Library's MARC data base. In addition, the National Referral Center Master file, consisting of descriptions of 10,000 information resources on virtually any topic of science and technology is made available

through SCORPIO. By means of the National Referral Center, the Library of Congress attempts to link persons having specific questions in science and technology with the appropriate organizations or individuals who can best answer their questions.

While the development of specialized data bases is the newest and most innovative reader service activity at the Library of Congress, certainly one of the Library's most successful undertakings has been its work in support of reader services to the blind and physically handicapped. Through a network of 54 regional agencies and 92 sub-regional outlets the Library offers braille, talking books, and cassettes to some 400,000 readers with diverse needs and interests.

This brief review of the Library's major reader services indicates that the Library of Congress has led the way in developing certain unique information services. The data bases and the related series of reports created by the Library's strong research arm are without equal. However, with the exception of the services to the blind and physically handicapped and the three-year plan to create a national bibliographic center for these activities, there seems to be little thought and no plan to share the data bases and appropriate special reports with other libraries in the country. Although it is recognized that certain of these services must maintain limited access provisions so as not to hinder the work of the Congressional Research Service or indeed the Congress, SCORPIO was conceived as a public reference tool. By making available its various data bases and reports to the national library community, the Library of Congress would make a tremendous contribution to the revitalization of America's libraries' reference services, and, in turn, would directly offer all the American people a higher level of information services. At present, it is a frequently heard criticism that information requests received by the Library of Congress are not treated in a consistent manner depending on how the request is received. The development of local information services of high quality would enable the Library of Congress to refer information requests to the local level for response when appropriate and promote a compatible national level of information services.

A greater sharing of material resources is needed in other areas affecting direct services to readers. In recent years, serial publications have come to be of greater importance to scholars and researchers. The Library of Congress has an expansive collection of serials and periodicals, but even this great Library cannot hope to collect every periodical to meet the needs of its users and encourage access to its collection. Efforts are now underway to create a national periodicals system including a national lending system. Such a national pooling of periodicals resources would both expand the Library of Congress' collection of serials and make it more accessible to other libraries.

In light of these comments, the Advisory Group on Libraries recommends:

That the Library of Congress in developing data bases for public reference use explore means of sharing access to these data bases with the American library community, perhaps in a similar manner by which the National Library of Medicine data bases are made accessible.

That special reports by the Congressional Research Service on topics of major interest be made more accessible to the public through some type of systematic distribution to libraries, possibly a depository arrangement.

That the Library of Congress encourage and participate in the creation of a national periodical system designed to insure timely access to serials resources throughout the United States.

INTERNATIONAL ROLE OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

All great research libraries must be involved in international activities, since scholars and scholarship, unable to survive without libraries, thrive best in conditions which permit the free flow of ideas from country to country and from culture to culture. No country's library and information system can be self-sufficient. Many countries have always had to rely to a great extent on information obtained from outside, and now, such is the volume and complexity of material generated, even the largest and most industrially developed countries are no longer able to collect all the information relevant to their needs.

Currently libraries and information services are seeking to discover how to optimize their services by drawing on the best available material whether at home or abroad. As a consequence, many international organizations are now showing interest in such questions as how to acquire, process and disseminate information in the most effective and useful manner. Prominent among these are intergovernmental organizations such as UNESCO, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Health Organization (WHO), and other specialized agencies of the United Nations; regional intergovernmental organizations such as the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD); and nongovernmental international organizations such as the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA), the International Federation for Documentation (FID), and the International Council on Archives (ICA).

Because of the extraordinary range of its collections, encompassing unsurpassed stores of material dealing with American and other cultures, taken together with its wide-ranging and sophisticated service potential for meeting the needs of both national and international users, the Library of Congress is a natural focus point for United States involvement in international library and information service programs.

For the Library of Congress the most important international developments have been in the context of two groups of related program activities--NATIS and UNISIST--which are being developed under the aegis of UNESCO. UNISIST was initially concerned with science information, and NATIS was aimed initially at libraries and library service. However, the principles governing their basic program activities are essentially the same. Both are concerned with developing national and international resource sharing networks; both recognize the role of the national library in promoting these activities; and both identify program areas in which the national library has an important role to play.

Recently, UNESCO brought together most of its UNISIST and NATIS activities into a general information program under the supervision of an intergovernmental steering committee, the Information Systems and Services Council, on which the United States is represented. The Library of Congress should play a major role in the affairs of the new Council and in the briefing procedures to be adopted by the State

Department for guiding the United States representation on the Council.

Through the National Program for Acquisitions and Cataloging the Library of Congress collects a wide range of foreign material. In the case of some developing countries the Library may hold more comprehensive collections than the countries themselves, and the Library's foreign accessions lists may be even more timely and comprehensive than the national bibliographies where these exist. As a result, the Library is singularly well-placed to play an effective and valuable role in the international program for Universal Bibliographic Control (UBC) and related programs of UNESCO and IFLA.

The purpose of UBC is to insure that in each country some agency will record and describe all indigenous publications as well as produce and distribute appropriate bibliographic records according to international standards currently being developed under UBC sponsorship. The Library of Congress might encourage the development of national bibliographies where none exist by making the national libraries of these countries concerned the exclusive agents for publication of the contents of appropriate Library of Congress accessions lists within their national boundaries. Consideration might also be given to making available microform copies of out-of-print works to enable these libraries to fill gaps in their collections of indigenous materials.

Another vitally important area for international cooperation lies in improving world arrangements for increasing the availability of published materials of all kinds by means of rapid loan or photocopy services. The Library of Congress should initiate steps to establish appropriate international loan procedures for use by libraries within the United States.

Earlier reference was made to the traditional role of the Library in assisting international scholarship. More might be done to increase the extent to which the wealth of the Library's collections is mined by scholars from abroad by developing a visiting fellowships program.

In all of these activities the international credibility of the Library of Congress will be largely dependent on the degree of national support it receives. What may seem desirable internationally may create substantial problems nationally unless there is careful preparation. Moreover, recognition should be given to the substantial international programs of the other American national libraries and of the major library associations, so as to minimize conflict and duplication while enhancing opportunities for cooperation. It is therefore essential that appropriate consultative machinery be set up to insure that the leadership of the Library of Congress in international matters can be responsive to the library and information community it serves.

Specific recommendations are the following:

That the Library of Congress take steps to assure that appropriate representation of the U.S. library and information services interests will be made to the new

Information Systems and Services Council of UNESCO, Further, that representatives of the Library should be intimately involved in the briefing procedures adopted by the State Department in guiding the U.S. representation on the Council.

That maximum effort be exerted toward the implementation of UBC by improving U.S. arrangements for the production and distribution of bibliographic records: by extending national input to the International Serials Data System (ISDS); by developing the international MARC system and MARC data base exchange arrangements; and by assisting in the design and implementation of appropriate international standards for bibliographic description of all types of materials, for transliteration, and for exchange of machine-readable records.

That consideration be given to the possibility of encouraging the development of national bibliographies by making the national libraries of the countries concerned exclusive agents for publication of the contents of the appropriate Library of Congress accession lists within their own boundaries.

That the Library establish active interagency communications with other groups in the Federal network on matters of international concern and that appropriate consultative mechanisms be set up to insure that the Library can be responsive to the needs of the American library and information community.

That the Library of Congress assist in the organization of improved arrangements for international interlibrary lending.

That consideration be given to the development of a visiting fellowship program aimed at making the wealth of the Library of Congress' collections more accessible to foreign scholars.

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS AND THE AMERICAN LIBRARY COMMUNITY

By appointing the present Advisory Group on Libraries, the Librarian of Congress continues a tradition of involving the American library community in major discussions regarding the future of the Library of Congress. In 1896, just prior to the move to the first new building, the Joint Library Committee held hearings on the Library and its services. ALA sent witnesses to testify at the hearings. At the invitation of Archibald MacLeish, the library community again participated in a review of the role, function, and organization of the Library of Congress. While the record gives considerable evidence that the Library has consulted with the library community on basic questions affecting policy, function, and organization, the relationship between the Library of Congress and American libraries has suffered from a lack of continuity. Discussions have been all too infrequent and usually associated only with the formal review and planning activities of the Library. An optimal advisory mechanism to the Library of Congress from the library community might be appropriately constructed within the following framework:

The relationship should be sustained over time.

The relationship should be multi-level, recognizing that the type of advisory mechanisms required will vary in terms of the subjects being studied.

The relationship should be pluralistic, recognizing that library and information services today are complex and that the interests of state, public, college, school and special libraries need to be represented along with the concerns of the large research libraries.

The relationships should be both formal and informal, recognizing that both the Library of Congress and the American library community are far too complex and diverse for a single advisory mechanism to serve adequately.

Just as the American library community should stand ready to assist the Library of Congress in considering its mission, the Library of Congress should seek to serve American librarianship by acting as a focal point for activities which are in the national interest and have impact upon all libraries. For example, in the years ahead, greater attention must be given to the area of research and development to improve library methods and practices. Although the extent of the need exceeds the Library's present capabilities, there are some areas in which the Library could work cooperatively with other institutions. One especially critical area of concern is the preservation and conservation of library materials. The Library of Congress is currently engaged in advanced research to study the deterioration, preservation and conservation of library materials. Expertise and knowledge of this type should be shared as widely as possible.

In the area of education and training the extent of the Library's activities and interests make it a valuable resource for the continuing professional development of librarians. A program of mid-career internships, supplemented by a series of training programs on specific topics, would allow librarians to advance their own skills, share their knowledge and imagination with the Library of Congress staff, and be exposed first-hand to the rich resources which the Library of Congress offers.

Some specific recommendations for consideration are:

That an advisory mechanism for the Library be created to represent various types of libraries, scholars and other appropriate groups to assist the Library in articulating its national objectives and coordinating its activities in light of these goals. The Library should continue to select specialists to act as advisors to the various projects the Library undertakes.

That the Library develop appropriate means to share widely the Library's knowledge on the deterioration, preservation, and conservation of library materials.

That the Library establish a series of formal educational and training programs to provide continuing career development both for library professionals already on the staff of the Library of Congress and for librarians from outside the Library.

APPENDIX I

TASK FORCE DOCUMENT 3
February 1976

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
TASK FORCE ON GOALS, ORGANIZATION, AND PLANNING

Document 3: A Statement by the Librarian.

My first duty as twelfth Librarian of Congress is to review the present state of the Library.

i. Why we need a review

A third of a century has passed since the Library last undertook a full-scale, comprehensive review. These decades have been full of momentous change. The activity of government and the reach of legislation have extended beyond precedent. Our nation has suffered the pangs of adjustment after a World War and has been involved in two other wars. In vast territories of the world the free flow of information is obstructed.

We have lived through a technological revolution more intimate and more pervasive than any before. The airplane has displaced the railroad and the steamship for transcontinental and transoceanic travel. Photography, motion pictures, and sound reproduction have been newly elaborated. Television has entered our living rooms and incited new uses for the radio, newspapers, and magazines. Novel forms of book production and reproduction--microform, xerography, and near-print--have multiplied. The disintegration of paper, once only a threat, has become an immediate menace. The computer has suddenly revealed a whole new science and technology for storing and retrieving information. The pace of scientific progress and of accumulating knowledge has quickened. Space exploration has given a new perspective to our maps and to our ways of seeing our nation's place on our planet.

No part of the Library of Congress has been untouched by these transformations. Today hundreds of our staff are engaged in activities never imagined a half-century ago. The traditional activities of our Library--acquisitions, cataloging, helping the nation's libraries, and communicating information to the Congress--have also been reshaped.

At the same time, the size of our Library has multiplied. When Librarian Archibald MacLeish initiated the last full-scale review thirty-five years ago, the Library had a book collection of some 6 million volumes, an annual budget of about 4 million dollars, and a staff of 1,100.

enriching experience. We must do all in our power to insure that a career in the Library of Congress will be not merely a career of service, but also a career of self-fulfillment.

It is also urgent that we keep in close touch with our constituencies. The Congress first of all. But our other constituencies as well. The review itself will open new channels of communication between our Library and all our constituencies and help us keep these channels open and free-flowing.

Among the questions which I suggest are the following:

1. How well are we serving Congress? How can we better serve the Congress?

2. How well are we serving other Government agencies? How should we be serving them?

3. How well are we serving the nation's libraries? How (within our legal mandate) can we better serve the nation's public libraries, special libraries, research libraries, and other educational institutions?

4. Are our collections as widely and as fully used as they ought to be, by scholars, scientists, historians, lawyers, social scientists, poets, composers, performers, and members of the business community? How can improved administration, the addition of private and foundation resources, and more widely diffused information about our resources increase our usefulness to creative persons? How can we more effectively encourage research and creativity in the interest of the Congress and the nation?

5. How have new technological resources increased our opportunities for service to traditional constituencies and opened avenues of service to new constituencies? What can we do that we are not now doing to serve the blind and the physically handicapped, to improve the nation's capacity to read and to help instill the habit of reading? How can we better serve the media?

6. How has new technology shaped our opportunities and our duty to preserve a full record of American civilization in our time?

7. As the quantity of informational and cultural materials increases, what can we do that we are not now doing to keep the citizen from being overwhelmed by quantity, and to guide the reader and the viewer through the thickening wilderness of printed and graphic matter?

8. In a period of change in technology and in the legal protection of authors and artists, what can the Library of Congress and its Copyright Office do "to promote the progress of science and the useful arts"?

9. In the midst of rapidly changing technology, what can the Library do to preserve and enrich the tradition of the Book?

10. In a world where many governments censor and restrict publication and inhibit free expression, are we doing everything necessary and appropriate to keep knowledge and information freely flowing into our Library from everywhere? Are we doing all that we can to provide the Congress and the nation with a fully stocked free marketplace of the nation's and the world's knowledge and ideas? What can we do to make our collections more speedily available?

These are only a few of the questions which we should consider in our review.

iii. How we will proceed

To advise me in my review of the Library, on January 16, 1976, I appointed a staff Task Force on Goals, Organization, and Planning. The Task Force chairman is John Y. Cole; its members are Alan M. Fern, Beverly Gray, Tao-Tai Hsia, Edward Knight, Lucia J. Rather, Lawrence S. Robinson, Norman J. Shaffer, Robert D. Stevens, Elizabeth F. Stroup, and Glen A. Zimmerman. With my guidance, the Task Force will seek counsel and solicit ideas from the Library's staff and will draw on the advice and suggestions of a number of outside groups chosen to represent the Library's constituencies. The Task Force office is Room 310 in the Main Building (telephone extension 6234). I have asked the Task Force to submit a preliminary report not later than September 1, 1976, and its final report not later than January 15, 1977, when the Task Force and its advisory groups will be dissolved.

I will work closely with the Task Force and the Task Force advisory groups. We want and need the ideas and suggestions of the whole staff. An essential part of the job of the Task Force will be to encourage and insure this participation.

Our Library, with the generous support and the enlightened guidance of the Congress, has flourished during a century and three quarters. To establish a Congressional library as a nation's library was itself a bold and democratic New World innovation. Today, in this great Library, we are the heirs of two complementary traditions: the Tradition of Tradition and the Tradition of Change. If, as I confidently expect, we succeed in the review we now undertake, we can set an example of democratic vitality--of how we can draw on the full resources of our past to meet the surprising and exacting demands of the future.